

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

## BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

5th April, 1839.—Dr. D. C. Macreight, V.P. in the Chair.

The continuation of Mr. Edwin Lees's paper "On the species of *Tilia* natives of England," was read.

After noticing where the author considered the *Tilia* indigenous, he mentions that the *Tilia parvifolia* (Ehr.) is undoubtedly the most common in Britain whatever may be the case on the continent. Ray records it as frequent in Essex and Sussex as well as in Lincolnshire. According to Mr. Bicheno, in Smith's 'English Flora,' it grows plentifully in Stokenchurch Woods, Oxfordshire, and the author found it abundantly in the western parts of Worcestershire, forming in some spots the principal part of the coppice wood, as well as about the wild ravines of the vale of Neath, Glamorganshire, beautifully overhanging the waterfalls of that romantic region. The author saw no reason to doubt its indigenousness. Many singularly grotesque old trees of this species occur about the bases of all the Silurian Hills from Malvern to Ludlow, drawings of which were exhibited.

Dr. Bromfield states, in Watson's 'Botanist's Guide,' that he was informed "that there are entire woods of this species" at Buckland near Ashburton, Devonshire. It is singular that Mr. Watson himself considers the fact of there being woods of this species as leading to "the presumption of the trees being planted and *not* indigenous." But surely the converse of this must appear to the majority of reflecting botanists; and strangely enough, on this principle, *Tilia grandifolia*, which is only found in scattered trees or groups, would have a stronger claim than the far more common *Tilia parvifolia*. Besides, we surely consider the occurrence of a wood or coppice of any particular tree, say the hazel, the alder, or the holly, as indicating a greater adaptitude of the soil or locality to the nourishment of that particular species, which has thus established its home or head quarters at the spot; and on this principle botanists find it advantageous to attend to the *habitats* of plants.

19th April.—Dr. William H. Willshire, in the Chair.

A paper was read from Mr. Arthur Wallis "On the *Orchideæ* of Essex." The northern parts of Essex are characterized by chalky deposits, extending from Cambridgeshire and Herts, occasionally interspersed with loamy sand, and on the high ground alluvial clay. Travelling southward the soil still consists of heavy loam, and in

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some districts extensive fields of gravel. On reaching the central parts of the county (in which the author included the neighbourhood for several miles round Chelmsford), there is a rich black mould, with here and there spots of clay and gravel, but no chalk. The extreme west consists, in addition to many fertile spots, of gravel as well as alluvial clay, and in those parts bordering on the Thames, as Purfleet, Thurrock, &c., the chalk predominates. Though it is well known that the Orchis tribe more especially delight in a calcareous soil, yet Mr. W. found them in all the varied *habitats* which the county presents, from the light rich soil to the loam and chalk. The author had found the following: *Orchis moris*, *Orchis mascula*, *Orchis pyramidalis*, *Orchis ustulata*, and *Orchis latifolia*.

A paper was read from Mr. W. H. White\* “On the genus *Potentilla* and *Tormentilla*.”

## ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

February 26, 1839.—The Rev. F. W. Hope in the Chair.

A paper, entitled “*Spicilegium Serpentium Indicorum*,” was communicated by Dr. Theodore Cantor. This paper contains the following descriptions of

A. *Venomous Serpents* †.

## Genus TRIGONOCEPHALUS, Oppel.

TRIGONOCEPHALUS ERYTHRURUS. *Tri. supra lætè viridis, squamis ovatis carinatis subimbricatis, caudâ cinnamomeâ, squamis lævibus rhomboidalibus tectâ; abdomine flavo-viridescenti lineâ nigrâ serratâ utrinque incluso.*

*Scuta abdominalia* 167.

*Scutella subcaudalia* 68.

*Habitat.* Delta Gangeticum.

Bright green above, with ovate keeled slightly imbricate scales; the tail cinnamon-red, with smooth rhomboidal scales; the abdominal surface greenish-yellow, inclosed on both sides by a black serrated line.

TRIGONOCEPHALUS MUCROSQUAMATUS. *Tri. supernè griseo-brunescens, annulis nigris albo marginatis, squamis ovalibus, semi-carinatis mucronatis, imbricatim tectus; subtus albidus, nigro punctatus.*

*Scuta abdominalia* 218.

*Scutella subcaudalia* 91.

*Habitat.* Naga Hills, Assam.

Brownish grey above, with black white-edged rings, covered with oval, half-keeled, pointed, imbricate scales; whitish beneath, dotted with black.

\* See in p. 283 of the present Number a Note relative to Mr. W. H. White and Dr. Westendorp.

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